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Senate Acts to Put Life-Saving Opioid Overdose Medication in the Hands of Those Who Need It

Oregon Senate approves Senate Bill 1043, which directs health care facilities to provide two doses of opioid overdose reversal medication to patients at risk for overdoses

SALEM – Today, the Oregon Senate unanimously passed [Senate Bill 1043](#), which requires health care facilities and drug treatment facilities to provide two doses of opioid overdose reversal medicine and related medical supplies upon discharge to patients who were there for treatment related to opioid abuse.

The bill also establishes civil liability protections to people who administer opioid overdose medication to a person experiencing an overdose.

Narcan and the generic naloxone are proven to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and save lives. These medications have been used for years by first responders, health care professionals and even untrained civilians.

“Our state and our nation are struggling through a terrible opioid overdose epidemic, driven by the abuse of fentanyl. Senate Bill 1043 is smart, targeted legislation that will save lives by providing critical medication to the people most at risk for opioid overdoses,” said **Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego)**, who carried the bill. “It is incumbent upon all of us as elected leaders to pass legislation that will protect our most vulnerable neighbors.”

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, opioid overdose deaths nationally have more than doubled over the past half decade, from 52,404 in 2016 to 106,699 in 2021. This trend is true in Oregon as well, where overdose deaths from opioids, including fentanyl and heroin, rose from 280 in 2019 to 739 in 2021.

SB 1043 is not the only bill to address fentanyl overdoses the Oregon Legislature is considering this session. The others include: [Senate Bill 450](#), [House Bill 2395](#), [House Bill 2397](#) and [House Bill 2574](#). Each of these bills has received bipartisan support.

“Too many Oregonians are dying from drug overdoses. Getting them access to this safe, effective treatment will save lives,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D-Portland)**, co-sponsor of SB 1043. “This is a small step we can take to make a big difference, and I look forward to doing even more to end the opioid epidemic in our communities.”

SB 1043 was introduced at the request of Gov. Tina Kotek and now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

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